

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 209556

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ORIGIN ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 DHA-02 ORM-01 L-03 H-02 PRS-01 ISO-00

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DRAFTED BY IATF/OSC/SCSHEPLEY/HFM

APPROVED BY IATF/JVTAFT

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R 032302Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CG CAMP PENDLETON CA

CG FORT CHAFFEE

INDIANTOWN GAP MILITARY RESERVATION PA

UNCLAS STATE 209556

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: FEEDBACK FROM REFUGEE INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY OSC
VIETNAMESE PERSONNEL OF INDIANTOWN GAP

FOR ALL SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATORS

1. SELECTED REFUGEES AT INDIANTOWN GAP WERE INTERVIEWED BY OSC
VIETNAMESE EVALUATORS ON JUL 30, 31 AND AUG 5. SINCE THIS
GENERAL FEEDBACK INFORMATION REFLECTING REFUGEE RESPECTIVES
OF CAMP AND LIFE CONCERNS ARE CONSIDERED OF A GENERAL
INTEREST TO ALL SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATORS, IT IS BEING
FORWARDED TO YOU FOR INFORMATION.

2. FIRST GROUP (5 FISHERMEN)

Q. HAVE YOU ANY POTENTIAL SPONSORS YET? AND HOW RECENTLY
DID YOU CONTACT YOUR VOLAG?

A. NO, WE HAVE NO POTENTIAL SPONSOR YET. OUR PAPERS ARE
WITH USCC AND THEY HAVE BEEN THERE FOR ALMOST 2 MONTHS. TWO
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PAGE 02 STATE 209556

DAYS AGO, WE WENT TO OUR VOLAG TO FIND OUT IF THERE WAS ANY
PROGRESS BUT NOTHING NEW HAPPENED. WE ALWAYS RECEIVE THE
SAME ADVICE FROM OUR VOLAG PEOPLE -- "RETURN TO YOUR BUILD-
ING AND WAIT."

Q. DO YOU THINK YOUR VOLAG REALLY WORKS HARD FOR YOUR CASE?

A. THEY ARE NICE AND THEY ALL WORK HARD. WHAT WE ARE MOST AFRAID ABOUT IS THAT WE SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DO FISHING AGAIN. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT RESETTLE US AS FARMERS. NO, WE DON'T WANT TO BE FARMERS.

Q. THERE IS NO SUCH A PLAN. HOW MANY FAMILIES OF FISHERMEN ARE THERE IN THIS CAMP? AND HOW MUCH LARGER IS THE AVERAGE FAMILY?

A. 30 FAMILIES, 8 PERSONS PER FAMILY.

Q. WHAT ARE YOUR MOST CONCERNED PROBLEMS? AND WHAT DID YOU DO WITH YOUR TIME IN THE CAMP?

A. LIKE OTHER REFUGEES, WE WANT TO SETTLE DOWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE DON'T KNOW THE LANGUAGE AND IT'S HARD TO LEARN IT. BUT WE ARE TRYING. OUR CHILDREN LEARN BETTER THAN THEIR PARENTS DO. BACK HOME, WE WERE QUITE SUCCESSFUL WITH OUR WORK. WE CAUGHT AT LEAST 5 TONS A WEEK. WE FEEL QUITE ALL RIGHT WITH CAMP LIFE. NO COMPLAINTS AT ALL. PLEASE HELP US IN FINDING A GOOD SPONSOR. WE ARE SURE WE CAN DO A GOOD BUSINESS IN THE STATES. WE LIKE TO BE RESETTLED SOMEWHERE IN THE CONTINENT. ALL THIS DEPENDS ON THE GOVERNMENT. WE LIKE TO BE RESETTLED IN A WARM PLACE.

Q. HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY NEWS FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT FORT CHAFFEE AND OTHER PLACES?

A. YES, FROM TIME TO TIME, WE DID HAVE THEIR NEWS. LIKE US, THEY DON'T KNOW MUCH. IF FIVE OF US COULD GET OUT OF THE CAMP FIRST AND RESETTLE, OTHERS WILL FOLLOW US. WE WILL BE ABLE TO SET UP A FISHING VILLAGE.

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PAGE 03 STATE 209556

3. PREVAILING. DESIRE TO BE RESETTLED IN ANY PLACE WITHIN THE CONTINENT WHERE THEY CAN DO THE FISHING - DESIRE TO BE EXPLAINED MORE CLEARLY ABOUT FISHING PRACTICES IN THE STATE. HAVE NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT IN-CAMP LIFE.

4. 2ND GROUP (MILITARY MEN) - 2 AIR TAXI CONTROL OPERATOR, 2 NAVY MEN, 2 SPECIAL FORCES OFFICERS. THEY ARE ALL SINGLE, MUCH MORE EDUCATED THAN THE FISHERMEN'S GROUP AND SPEAK GOOD ENGLISH.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE?

A. WE LIKE TO HAVE A JOB AND TO BE GOOD CITIZENS. WE

NEED SOME KIND OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO LEARN A TRADE.

Q. IF EVER YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO SERVE IN THE U.S. ARMY
ARE YOU WILLING TO DO SO?

A. SOME OF US WANT TO JOIN THE ARMY AND MAKE IT A CAREER
AGAIN. OTHERS PREFER TO HAVE A FREE OCCUPATION. AS WE
ARE YOUNG, WE DON'T MIND TO GO ANYWHERE THE GOVERNMENT
WANT US TO GO. IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR US IF WE COULD GO BY
GROUP OF 3 OR 5.

Q. HAVE YOU RECENTLY CONTACTED YOUR VOLAG?

A. OH, WE CAME TO THE PLACE QUITE OFTEN, BUT THERE WAS NOT
MUCH PROGRESS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS CAMP WILL BE
PHASED OUT THIS DECEMBER. IS THAT RIGHT? AND WHERE WILL
WE BE SENT TO THEN?

Q. WHO TOLD YOU SO?

A. WE LEARNED FROM THE PEOPLE AROUND HERE. BUT WE ARE NOT
VERY ANXIOUS ABOUT IT. FROM NOW TO DECEMBER, THERE IS
PLENTY OF TIME AND SURELY WE WILL BE OUT BEFORE THAT DEAD-
LINE. THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT US TO STAY IN HERE TOO
LONG. IT IS VERY COSTLY, THE IN-CAMP LIFE.

Q. IF YOU ARE THE CAMP ADMINISTRATOR, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

A. THIS IS A GOOD CAMP. WE HAVE NO COMPLAINTS AT ALL.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 209556

HOWEVER, WE LIKE TO SUGGEST TO ALLOW SELECTED REFUGEES TO
STAY A DAY OR SO WITH AMERICAN FRIENDS AT THEIR HOME.
THEY WOULD SEE HOW THE OUTSIDE LIFE LOOKS
LIKE, SO TO BE BETTER PREPARED. WE HAVE RECENTLY
RECEIVED THE REFUGEE ORIENTATION HANDBOOK. IT IS VERY
HELPFUL. WE NEED MORE LITERATURE LIKE THAT BOOK.

5. PREVAILING ASPIRATIONS. DESIRE TO RECEIVE VOCATIONAL
TRAINING ONCE THEY ARE RELEASED FROM THE CAMP AND TO BE
RESETTLED BY GROUP OF 3 OR 5 - HAVE NO WORRIED ABOUT FUTURE
PLACE OF RESETTLEMENT.

6. THIRD GROUP: OLD AGED REFUGEES: THESE REFUGEES ARE
ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR CHILDREN. THEY SEEM TO RELY COMPLETE-
LY UPON THEIR CHILDREN AND SEEM TO BE THE MOST HOME-SICK
GROUP.

7. FOURTH GROUP(VIETNAMESE MONTAGNARDS): THE REPRESENT-
ATIVE OF THIS GROUP OF 17 PERSONS IS MR. TOUNEH HAN
THO. ACCORDING TO HAN THO, ONLY A FEW VIETNAMESE MONTAG-
NARDS COULD GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY. ONLY A TOTAL OF ABOUT
60 MONTAGNARDS INCLUDING CHILDREN AND WIVES ARE NOW IN THE

STATES. HAN THO, A FORMER HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ETHNIC MINORITIES, SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH. HE HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY DR. GERALD HICKEY WHO WAS IN SOUTH VIETNAM FOR YEARS. DR. HICKEY HAS A JOB FOR HAN THO IN WASHINGTON D.C. OUT-PROCESS IN ON THE WAY. BESIDES DR. HICKEY, HAN THO HAS RECEIVED HELP FROM OTHER AMERICAN FRIENDS AND ABOUT A WEEK FROM NOW, THO'S WHOLE GROUP OF VIETNAMESE MONTAGNARDS AT INDIANTOWN GAP WILL BE RELEASED. DR. HICKEY SHOULD BE CONTACTED BY OUR OSC STAFF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR FOLLOWING UP PURPOSE.

8. AS THE IN-CAMP POPULATION DECLINES THROUGH ACCELERATED RESETTLEMENT OF THE EASY TO PLACE REFUGEES, THE CAMPS ARE BEING INCREASINGLY LEFT WITH HARD TO PLACE CATEGORIES, I.E., FARMERS FISHERMEN LARGE FAMILIES, ETC. ONE OF THE LARGEST GROUPS IN THIS HARD TO PLACE CATEGORY ARE FISHERMEN, IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF THE HARD TO PLACE IATF IS CONSIDERING SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING GROUP SPONSORSHIP, SPONSORSHIP-EMPLOYEE PACKAGES AND VARIOUS UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 209556

CLUSTERING MODELS. TO ASSIST US IN FURTHER ASSESSING THE PROFILE OF HARD TO PLACE REFUGEES, WE NEED SOONEST AN ASSESMENT FROM EACH OF YOU RE NUMBERS OF FISHING FAMILIES IN YOUR CAMPS RATIO OF ABLE-BODIED FISHERMEN TO DEPENDENTS WITHIN TOTAL FAMILY NUMBERS AND TYPES OF FISHING EXPERIENCE AMONG PEOPLE OF THESE GROUPS, I.E., NET FISHING, DEEP-SEA FISHING ETC. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, REFUGEE CAMPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE209556
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IATF/OSC/SCSHEPLEY/HFM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750305-0592
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197509103/baaaaanl.tel
Line Count: 195
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ITFE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 AUG 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: SREF, XC, US
To: CG CAMP PENDLETON CA
CG FORT CHAFFEE
INDIANTOWN GAP MILITARY RESERVATION PA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006